Issue 4/2018

Focus on stamps

The Collector's Magazine

Fondue
+
Christmas
+ Medicinal plants
+ Stamp Day Allschwil
+ much more

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Cover image: Patrick and Dominic Bärfuss, managers of the "Chäshütte" cheese store in Berne, present the two special stamps dedicated to fondue. Photo: Thomas Rathgeb

Dear Reader
The days are drawing in, and temperatures are falling. The sun's strength is waning, colourful leaves are dancing in the wind, and winter is just around the corner. It's the ideal moment to inject some cheer and merriment into the drudgery of everyday life. What about a cheese fondue by candlelight? Swiss Post is paying tribute to what is probably Switzerland's best-known national dish with two stamps – "Fondue pot" and "Cheese". And speaking of fondue, did you know that it's a myth that drinking schnapps helps to stop the cheese from sitting so heavily in your stomach? Alcohol actually has the opposite effect, slowing down your digestion. It would be more beneficial to drink some herbal tea, which leads us to our next topic: Swiss Post is paying homage to medicinal plants with a miniature sheet produced using the traditional steel engraving printing process.
Pro Juventute was established in 1912, with the aim of combating tuberculosis. Today, the charitable organization provides a range of programmes and services to support children and young people, as well as those close to them. The motif of the new set of stamps is "Happy childhood."
The final journey of the "Swiss railway stations" definitive stamp set takes us to the Swiss capital and Berne main station.
From there, we travel north across Switzerland to Allschwil, which lies on the south-western outskirts of the city of Basel and will be the location of this year's Stamp Day at the end of November. The miniature sheet dedicated to the event features a collection of typical Allschwil buildings around the village square and the church.
The philatelic year is rounded off on a festive note with the "Bethlehem" special cover and the Christmas stamps. If you're interested in an exclusive item, look no further than the cover marking the 175th anniversary of Swiss stamps, which includes commemorative stamp tokens made of genuine silver. But you'll have to be quick, as it is a strictly limited edition.

Thank you for your loyalty, and I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Claudia Frankl
Head of Stamps & Philately

A big thank you to our subscribers

This year, Swiss Post would once again like to thank all stamp and cancellation subscribers for their long-standing loyalty. This year's folder contains the original "Medicinal plants" miniature sheet from issue 4/18 dated 15 November 2018, which is steel engraved and was produced only in limited edition. The folder explains the steel engraving technique. The stamps feature four medicinal plants inspired by illustrations in the book of herbs by the 16th-century Italian doctor and botanist Pietro Andrea Mattioli.
Subscribers will receive the subscription gift with issue 4/18 or the 2018 annual delivery. The folder is not available for sale.

What if you don't yet have a subscription, but would like to receive this exclusive collector's item? Sign up for a stamp subscription now, and you'll receive the folder as a gift!

We hope you continue to enjoy collecting Swiss stamps in future.

Our Contact Center would be happy to advise you.
Tel.: +41 (0)848 66 55 44
E-mail: stamps@swisspost.ch

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Issuing programme 1/2019

Issue date: 7 March 2019 / Featured in: Focus on stamps 1/2019

No.	Value	Description
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp*** Basel Carnival – Intangible cultural heritage of humanity *** Issue date: 24 January 2019**
4	**5.35**	**Special stamps** **Animal friends**
	0.85	Dog
	1.00	Cat
	1.50	Rabbit
	2.00	Horse
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 200th anniversary of Alfred Escher's birth
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** Lucky pig
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 1919–2019 Swiss air transport
2	**1.85**	**Special stamps** **100 years Postbus routes**
	0.85	Graubünden
	1.00	Simplon
3	**3.00**	**Special stamps** **Fumetto Comic Festival**
	1.00	Question
	1.00	Search
	1.00	Answer
2	**2.00**	**Special stamps** **100 years Swiss National Circus Knie**
	1.00	Leupin 1956
	1.00	Erni 2009
1	**2.00**	**Postal card** 700 years municipality of Rolle

Subject to change. As at: August 2018

Correction

In Focus on stamps 3/2018, the price of the Swiss stamp catalogue 2019 was incorrectly stated as CHF 37 instead of CHF 27. However, the new selling price of CHF 27 has been billed for all orders.

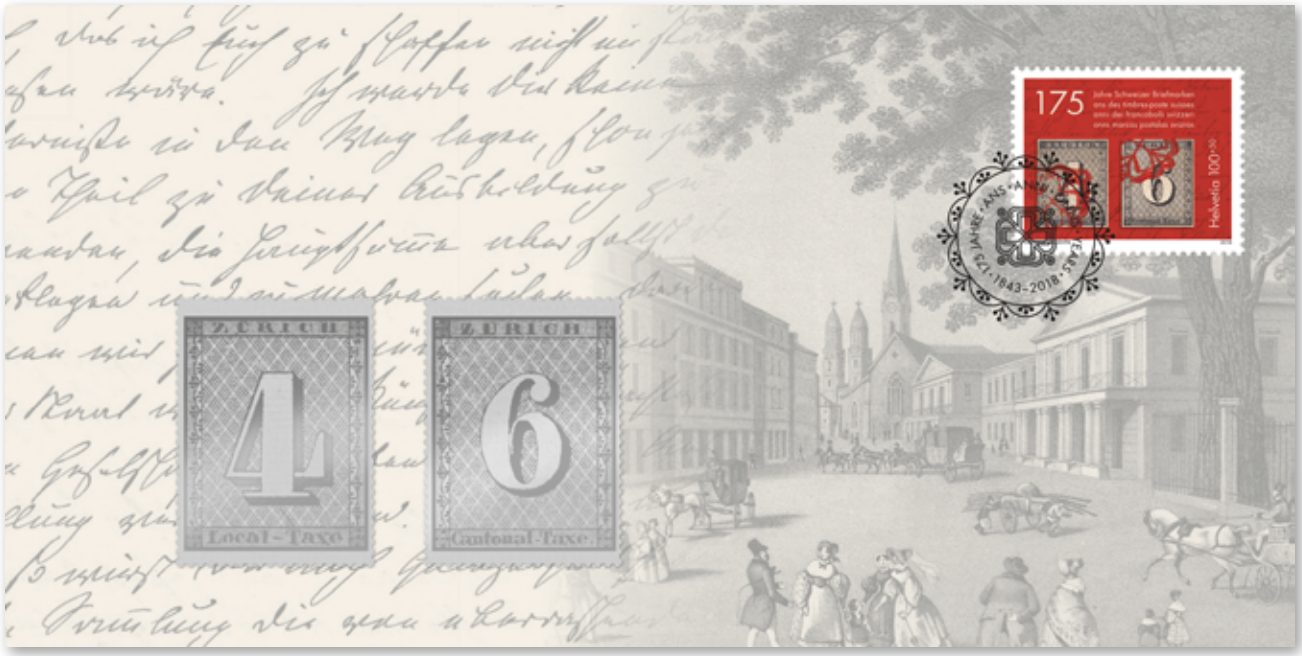
Limited-edition anniversary product

Anniversary envelope with silver commemorative stamp tokens

To round off the Swiss stamp's anniversary year, an exclusive envelope is available in a limited and numbered edition of 2,000. Franked with the "175 years of Swiss stamps" special stamp and cancelled with a commemorative postmark, the elegant, fully-printed envelope contains two tokens which are made of genuine silver and feature the motifs of the first two stamps, "Zurich 4" and "Zurich 6" (protected by two separate plastic covers).

Please note: the silver commemorative stamp tokens are not valid for postage. Orders will be processed in the sequence in which they arrive.

Don't miss out! Limited issue of 2,000 items!



Product	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Anniversary envelope with commemorative stamp tokens made of silver		
The product contains two silver commemorative stamp tokens ("Zurich 4" and "Zurich 6") and is franked with the stamp "175 years Swiss stamps" and cancelled with a special commemorative postmark.	A198 990	34.90
The anniversary envelope is not supplied with the subscription.		

Technical information	
Printing	Cover: offset, 4-colour Commemorative stamp tokens: embossed on silver (999.9/1,000)
Sizes	Cover: C6/5, 229×114 mm Commemorative stamp tokens: 28×38×0.1 mm, 1.12 g
Design	Fabienne Angehrn, Lucerne
Source Background images	Photograph: Zentralbibliothek Zurich, Graphische Sammlung und Fotoarchiv Written document: UB Basel, NL 325 : A 79,5

Toy bricks

Blowing bubbles

Pro Juventute – Happy childhood

When the Pro Juventute foundation was established in 1912, its original aim was to combat tuberculosis among children and young people. Nowadays, Pro Juventute's programmes and services have three quite different objectives. They help promote an identity, community and opportunities for children and young people.

Pro Juventute provides a range of programmes and services to support children and young people, as well as the people close to them. In addition to offering a helpline, the 147 emergency number, and advice for parents and youth leaders, it organizes supervised holiday programmes and has its own hotel, Chesa Spuondas. Not forgetting letters for parents, programmes and services for education about responsible use of money and the media, and its work to prevent unemployment among young people.
Whereas the emphasis was on illustrations in the period from 2014 to 2017, Swiss Post has opted for photographs taken by Mark Baumgartner for the latest set of stamps. The theme, developed in association with Pro Juventute, is "Happy childhood". Children are shown in typical situations which reflect this happiness. The first two stamp motifs, "Toy bricks" and "Blowing bubbles", are being issued this year. The set will be completed with two further motifs in 2019.

Business sheet with 10 stamps

Set on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 8.11.2018 to 30.6.2019 Branches: from 15.11.2018 to 31.1.2019 while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 15.11.2018
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands
Sizes	Stamps: 33×28 mm Sheet: 82×198 mm (open), 82×99 mm (folded), 5 rows of 2 stamps Stamp booklet: 254×62 mm (open), 86×62 mm (folded)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 220 gm²
Perforation	Serpentine cut (4 sides)
Design	Mark Baumgartner, Brügg

The stamp booklet contains six A Mail and six B Mail stamps and fits in any wallet.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Set	A231 150	A231 550	2.75
Set of blocks of four	A231 160	A231 560	11.00
Sheet with 10 stamps 0.85+0.40 Toy bricks 1.00+0.50 Blowing bubbles	 A231 361 A231 362	 A231 381 A231 382	 12.50 15.00
Covers			
Set on first-day cover C6		A231 580	3.65
Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)		A231 600	4.55
Block of four on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)		A231 630	12.80
Unstamped cover C6	A231 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A231 640	A231 650	3.55
Stamp booklets			
6 self-adhesive stamps at CHF 0.85+0.40 with the “Toy bricks” motif and 6 self-adhesive stamps at CHF 1.00+0.50 with the “Blowing bubbles” motif	A231 300	A231 800	16.50

Miniature sheet

Limited edition

Medicinal plants

"The dose makes the poison" is a maxim that has been generally accepted since the time of Swiss physician Paracelsus (1493–1541). This is especially true of medicinal plants, like those on the limited-edition miniature sheet.

Certain plants contain active ingredients which can be used to cure or treat illnesses. Knowledge of some of these is ancient and still comes in useful today. If the dose isn't right, however, these plants can actually be poisonous. The miniature sheet continues the yearly series of limited-edition stamps made using a special production technique, such as the recent "Record" (special lacquer with audio), "Goldvreneli" (gold embossing) and "Quince scent" (perfumed stamp). In 2018, the chosen technique is steel engraving. The four medicinal plants which are depicted are inspired by the book of herbs by the Italian doctor and botanist Pietro Andrea Mattioli (1501–1577). He was the first to describe plants which arrived in Central Europe in the 16th century, such as the tomato from America and the horse chestnut from the Balkans. His herbal book was extremely popular and continued to be printed into the 17th century. To reflect this heritage, the motifs on the miniature sheet are designed to resemble those on old educational wall charts.

Steel engraving
Similar to the better-known copper engraving, steel engraving is a traditional incision technique and is still used today in the production of bank notes. During this process, the image is etched onto a steel plate. The technique, which is rarely used today but meticulous in terms of detail, produces great contour definition and high levels of precision.

The templates
The original images, which were used as templates for the block, are found in an edition of Mattioli's book from 1678 which is held at the University Library in Berne.
In the "Library" section at unibe.ch/university, you will find an extensive archive with numerous historical works and a collection of old prints.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Miniature sheet with 4 stamps at CHF 1.00	A226 315	A226 815	4.00
Covers			
Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6		A226 580	4.90
Cover without miniature sheet C6	A226 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A226 640	A226 650	4.80
Art print on handmade paper			
Sheet size 350 × 470 mm Image size approx. 297 × 420 mm	A226 900		129.00

Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 8.11.2018 to 31.12.2019 Available at stamp counters from 8.11.2018, not on sale at branches, while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 15.11.2018
Printing	Offset with steel engraving, 4-colour and black in the engraving; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands
Sizes	Stamps: 34.7×36.5 mm Miniature sheet: 149×45 mm (1 row of 4 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	14¼:14¼
Design	Fanny Hartmann, Berne

Don't miss out! Limited issue of 200 items!

Art print on handmade paper
Based on a selection of old images, Fanny Hartmann produced an art print inspired by a page from an old-fashioned textbook exclusively for Swiss Post.
This was printed on handmade paper (250 g/m²). The page size is 350 × 470 mm, and the image size is approx. 297 mm × 420 mm. Each individual art print in the limited run of 200 copies is numbered and signed by hand, which means that every one of them is unique.
The print is delivered without a frame and rolled up in a box. The selling price is CHF 129, including shipping costs within Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Unfortunately, deliveries cannot be made abroad.

Cheese

Fondue pot

Fondue

Mountains, chocolate and banks are among the first things that come to mind when foreigners think of Switzerland. But it doesn't take long for cheese to enter the picture. And anybody who has ever treated themselves to a fondue in an Alpine hut also remembers the smile it put on their face.

The origin of the Swiss national dish of fondue is contested. It definitely comes from the Western Alps, but the regions of Savoy and Piedmont both lay claim to having invented it (and in Piedmont, truffles are of course used). Jean-Jacques Rousseau associated fondue with the area around Geneva. The oldest Swiss recipe written in German dates back to 1699, but only when the dish found its way into the army cookbook in the 1950s did it become the symbol of the nation.
The specially designed sheet with the "Fondue pot" and "Cheese" motifs, as well as a list of ingredients, immortalizes this piece of Switzerland. The scene is reminiscent of the terrace of an Alpine hut: a wooden table, perfect mountain surroundings in the background, the dishes, the ingredients – everything rustically displayed in warm colours. Viewers feel momentarily transported to a cosy atmosphere and are even convinced they can smell the homely scents.

Interview with the designer Francisco Rojas

Swiss Post commissioned you to design two special stamps and a matching sheet dedicated to fondue. Can you explain to us in a few words how you went about creating these motifs?
First, I reflected on the associations that the idea of "fondue" evoked in me – mountains, Switzerland, winter and cosiness. Then I considered how these associations could be depicted visually.

What challenges did you encounter when designing the stamps and the sheet?
Making food look realistic and appetizing without losing the character of an illustration was a challenge. It was also difficult to draw the mountains in a way that resembled traditional Swiss tourism illustrations.

What connotations does fondue have for you?
To me, fondue signifies a delicious meal enjoyed in the company of friends and family after a day in the mountains and snow.

Set on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 8.11.2018 to 31.12.2019 Branches: from 15.11.2018 while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 15.11.2018
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands
Sizes	Stamps: 24.5×24.5 mm Sheet: 270×180 mm
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¾
Design	Francisco Rojas, Berne

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Set	A227 150	A227 550	2.00
Set of blocks of four	A227 160	A227 560	8.00
Sheet of 12 stamps	A227 111	A227 511	12.00
The sheet contains 2 × 6 stamps with the motifs “Fondue pot” and “Cheese”. Motifs not available individually.			
Covers			
Set on first-day cover C6		A227 580	2.90
Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)		A227 600	3.80
Block of four on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)		A227 630	9.80
Unstamped cover C6	A227 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A227 640	A227 650	2.80

Sheet of 12 stamps

Special stamps

Christmas

What should the 2018 Christmas stamps look like? In a survey in November 2017, Swiss Post asked its customers which motifs they would like to see on this year's stamps. Three chosen designers were given a brief based on the results.

The resulting drafts were put before the public in an online vote, and the winning design was a photograph. Its author Martin Mägli later provided three additional motifs, all of which depict buildings in a winter wonderland, photographed in the "blue hour", shortly before nightfall.

0.85 – Bottmingen Water Castle
The castle in Bottmingen in the Canton of Basel-Land, built in the 13th century, is now used as a restaurant and venue for banquets, weddings and other celebratory events.

1.00 – Kandersteg Church
Located at the bottom of the Kander Valley, Kandersteg is the starting point for the Lötschberg car train on the Berne side. It is a reformed church built in 1511.

1.50 – Bedretto Village
The picturesque municipality at the foot of the Nufenen pass in Ticino was added to the list of local landscapes of national importance by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture.

2.00 – Saint-Ursanne Bridge
The small town of Saint-Ursanne can be found in the Pruntrut district in the north-west tip of Switzerland. The stone bridge with four arches over the Doubs river was built in 1728.

Christmas cards with the “Castle” motif with covers and stamps

Christmas cards with the “Church” motif with covers and stamps

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Set	A230 150	A230 550	5.35
Set of blocks of four	A230 160	A230 560	21.40
Sheet of 10 stamps			
0.85 Castle	A230 361	A230 381	8.50
1.00 Church	A230 362	A230 382	10.00
1.50 Village	A230 363	A230 383	15.00
2.00 Bridge	A230 364	A230 384	20.00
Covers			
Set on first-day cover C6		A230 580	6.25
Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)		A230 600	8.95
Block of four on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)		A230 630	25.00
Unstamped cover C6	A230 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A230 640	A230 650	6.15
Christmas cards with covers and stamps			
Set of 4 A6 folded cards with the “Castle” motif, 4 C6 covers and 4 Christmas stamps with the “Castle” motif at CHF 0.85 (non-affixed)	A230 951		9.20
Set of 4 A6 folded cards with the “Church” motif, 4 C6 covers and 4 Christmas stamps with the “Church” motif at CHF 1.00 (non-affixed)	A230 952		9.80
The Christmas cards are not supplied with the subscription.			

Set on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 8.11.2018 to 31.12.2019 Branches: from 15.11.2018 while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 15.11.2018
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France
Sizes	Stamps: 33×28 mm Sheet: 82×198 mm (5 rows of 2 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²
Perforation	Serpentine cut (4 sides)
Design	Martin Mägli, Herbligen

Other products

Christmas

This year's multilateral product contains a total of 17 original 2018 Christmas stamps from Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The multilateral Christmas set can be ordered from 15 October 2018 by visiting postshop.ch or by calling Customer Service (+41 848 66 55 44) and is not included in the enclosed order form.

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Multilateral Christmas set			
2018 issue, contains stamps from the following countries: Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Item available only in German.	A230 990		19.80
This product is not supplied with the subscription.			

The traditional Christmas market in Wienacht is held on the first Sunday of Advent. Swiss Post is issuing a special cancellation to mark this event.
There will be no sales stand at the event. You can send your slips with a self-addressed and franked reply envelope to the following address:
Post CH Ltd
PostalNetwork
Logistics PN
"Wienacht-Tobel"
Werkstrasse 41
3250 Lyss
Switzerland

Closing date: 2 December 2018

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Wienacht-Tobel special cover			
Special cover C6, franked with the "Church" special stamp at CHF 1.00 and cancelled with the special cancellation "9405 Wienacht-Tobel 2.12.2018"		A230 991	1.90
The special cover without a stamp is identical to the Bethlehem cover.			
The special cover is not supplied with the subscription.			

Bethlehem

The envelope shows another image by photographer Martin Mägli. The special cancellation was designed to match it.

Bethlehem special post office

Date: 11 to 14 December 2018
Place: Bethlehem special post office, "im Tscharni" cafe and community center, Waldmannstrasse 17, 3027 Berne
Getting there: Tram no. 8 to the Tscharnergut stop

Opening times:

Tuesday, 11.12.2018	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday, 12.12.2018	9 a.m. to 12 noon / 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, 13.12.2018	9 a.m. to 12 noon / 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 14.12.2018	9 a.m. to 12 noon / 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A letter box will also be set up from 11 December (1 p.m.) to 14 December (5 p.m.). Letter mail items that have been sent and franked with valid postage stamps will also be cancelled. Please note the applicable face values – also for registered mail.
They must be sent with a franked envelope to the following address by 13 December 2018 at the latest: PostNetz, Retail Logistics, Cancellation service, "Bethlehem", Werkstrasse 41, 3250 Lyss.

A franked envelope addressed to yourself must be enclosed for the return of unaddressed items for cancellation. Thank you.

Special cancellation

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Special covers			
"Bethlehem" special cover C6, franked with the "Church" special stamp at CHF 1.00 and cancelled with the special cancellation "3027 Bern 27 Bethlehem 11–14 December 2018"		A230 141	1.90
Special cover without stamp C6	A230 142		0.90
The special covers are not supplied with the subscription.			
Christmas card			
2018 Christmas card, without stamp, A6, four pages, inside print de, fr, it, en	A230 143		0.90
The Christmas card is not supplied with the subscription.			

Miniature sheet
with surcharge

Stamp Day 2018 Allschwil

This year's Stamp Day will be held at the end of November in Allschwil, in the Canton of Basel-Land. The miniature sheet with surcharge dedicated to the event features a collection of typical Allschwil buildings around the village square and the Church of St. Peter and Paul.

Allschwil, located west of Basel near the French border, is an old Sundgau farming village. It is almost like a little part of Alsace in Switzerland. Despite being the most populous municipality in the canton, Allschwil is intent on preserving its village character. The miniature sheet shows the numerous well-maintained half-timbered houses which can be found in the village and are so typical of the region.
For the first time, the Basel-Land stamp collector association is working alongside the Swiss thematic philatelists association for ALLPHILA'18, a level III stamp exhibition being held as part of Stamp Day. The goal is to show the public how diverse, interesting and informative stamp collecting can be. The surcharge on the miniature sheet has the same aim: it is being donated to the Foundation for the Promotion of Philately. Designer Kevin Hill is a London-born Irish landscape painter who has lived in Basel for 40 years. The self-taught artist's work focuses on classical still-life and landscape painting. He often begins his paintings with a pencil drawing on traditionally produced, handmade paper, before completing them in pen and colouring them with Indian ink.

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Special sheet with surcharge (1.00+0.50)	A228 315	A228 815	1.50
Covers			
Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6		A228 580	2.40
Cover without miniature sheet C6	A228 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A228 640	A228 650	2.30

Stamp exhibition ALLPHILA'18, level III

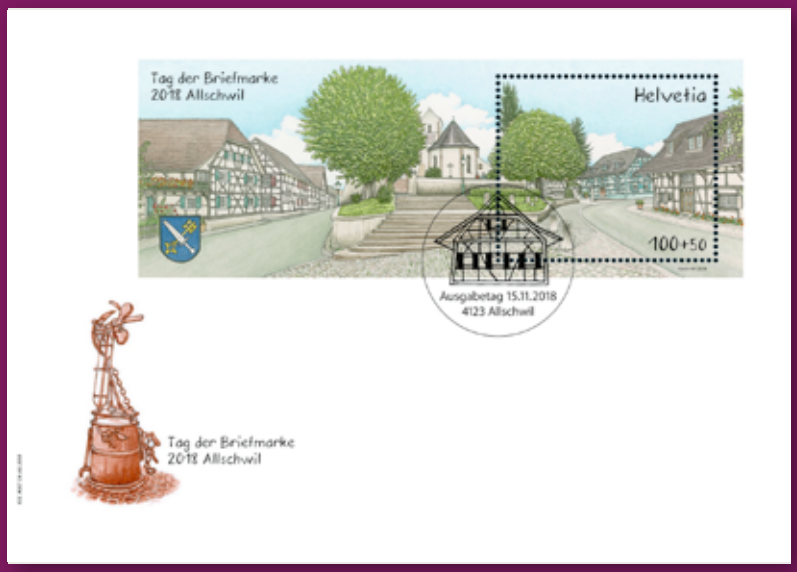
Venue: Schulhaus Gartenhof, 4123 Allschwil (entrance on Binningerstrasse, Gartenhof bus stop)

Opening times of exhibition, stamp exchange and sales stand with cancellation service:
Friday, 23.11.2018, 2–8 p.m.
(no stamp exchange)
Saturday, 24.11.2018, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Sunday, 25.11.2018, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

During the hours indicated, Swiss Post will run a sales stand with a cancellation service. The special cancellation depicted here will be used. Please send individual documents to the following address by 23 November 2018 at the latest:
Post CH Ltd, PostalNetwork, Retail Logistics, Cancellation Service, "TdBM2018", Werkstrasse 41, 3250 Lyss, Switzerland.

Autograph session
On Saturday, 24 November 2018 from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., there will be an autograph session with the illustrator of the miniature sheet, Kevin Hill.

Further information can be found at allphila18.ch.



Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6

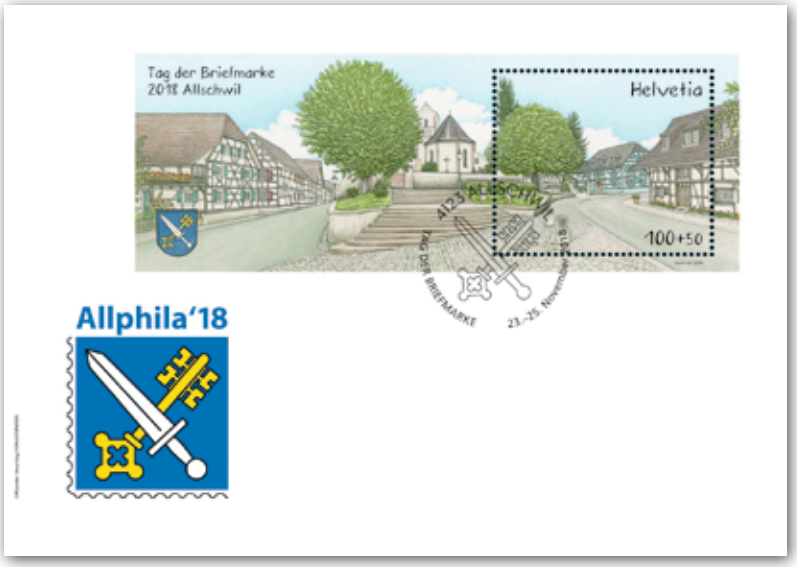
Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 8.11.2018 to 31.12.2019 Branches (Allschwil 1 and Basel 1 only): from 15.11.2018 while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 15.11.2018
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France
Sizes	Stamps: 45×38 mm Miniature sheet: 125×45 mm
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¼:13½
Design	Kevin Hill, Basel

The postal card shows an old view of Allschwil's main street, with the tram station. The stamp on the back depicts typical Allschwil buildings.

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Postal stationery			
"Stamp Day 2018 Allschwil" postal card, face value CHF 1.50 (1.00+0.50) + 1.00 for the card	A228 841	A228 846	2.50

Special cancellation

USPS cover with the
"Allschwil coat of arms" stamp motif
and special cancellation



Product	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Official USPS item		
Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies (USPS) special cover C6, franked with the "Stamp Day 2018 Allschwil" miniature sheet and cancelled with the special cancellation "4123 Allschwil 23–25 November 2018"	A228 581	4.00
The special cover is not supplied with the subscription.		

Another highlight: the 2018 year book

The year book of Swiss stamps once again impressively illustrates just how rich Switzerland is in terms of traditions, institutions and delightful traits.

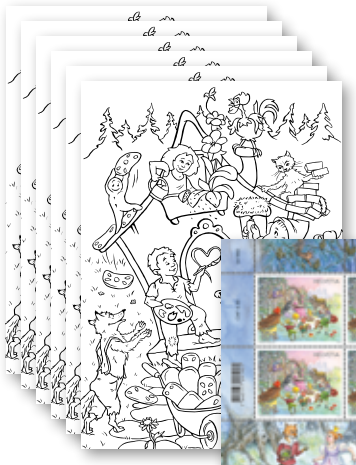
The book covers a wide range of motifs, including the traditional Swiss sport of Hornussen, the classic dish of fondue, railway history in the Bernese Oberland and Central Switzerland, and bridge architecture. It also pays homage to numerous institutions of national importance, as well as exciting events on the sporting and social calendars. It was a particularly special year for philately enthusiasts, who celebrated 175 years of Swiss stamps.
The 57 stamps presented over 127 pages make a highly creative and striking impression. The year book presents all original Swiss stamps launched in 2018. It is a wonderful document of our times, a little piece of Switzerland which will bring great joy to you or your loved ones for just CHF 69.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
2018 year book of Swiss stamps	A225 830	A225 831	69.00

Immerse yourself in a fairytale world

Incl. sticker card and A3 poster



Card set "Forest"

Card set "Meadow"

Product	Mint	Price in CHF
Card sets		
Forest	A218 951	17.00
Meadow	A218 952	17.00

The "Fairy tale" special stamps from issue 3/2018 are now joined by matching card sets. The "Forest" and "Meadow" sets each contain a sheetlet, six cards for colouring and a sticker card. This means you can produce and send individual works of art! Every set also contains a poster in A3 format. An ideal gift for young stamp collectors. The sets will also be available at all branches from 15 November 2018.

Definitive stamp

Swiss railway stations

The final staging post on the journey of the "Swiss Railway Stations" definitive set represents a fitting conclusion, since it brings us back to the capital of Switzerland. Berne main station was inaugurated in 1860 and re-opened in 1974 after undergoing extensive renovation work.

Berne's railway station, the second-largest in Switzerland after Zurich, serves the SBB, BLS and Berne-Solothurn narrow-gauge railway (RBS) and is a hub for the regional commuter rail network. The station in the Swiss capital was initially built as a terminus in 1860, but was converted into a through station in 1891. After many years of discussion, the building was renovated in the 1970s. The reinforced concrete construction, which is partly encased in glass, is nevertheless now stretched to its limits, with around 270,000 passengers passing through it each working day.
A new main entrance was created in the early 1990s along with a station square, which is virtually traffic free. Further renovation work was carried out in 2007–2008, which included a new glass roof. The canopy, known as "Baldachin", covers a large part of the square and forms a new landmark at the western boundary of the old town. From there, you can look out towards the striking station building, which Marc Weller has portrayed dramatically on the stamp. The graphic designer enjoyed a home advantage for the final stamp in the set.

Photo: iStock

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 8.11.2018 until further notice Branches: from 15.11.2018 while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 15.11.2018
Printing	Offset, 6-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands
Sizes	Stamps: 33×28 mm Sheet: 82×198 mm (5 rows of 2 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²
Perforation	Serpentine cut (4 sides)
Design	Marc Weller, Berne

Collectors' portfolio
(for all three years of issue)

Folder (annual stamp issue)

With the last stamp in the "Swiss railway stations" set, we not only return to Berne, but also fill the gap in terms of face values. The face value of CHF 3.60 covers large letters up to B4 format (35.3 × 25 × 2 cm) and a weight of up to a kilogram as B Mail in Switzerland, and international consignments as standard letters up to B5 format (25 × 17.6 × 2 cm) and a weight of up to 100 g with ECONOMY delivery within zone 2.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

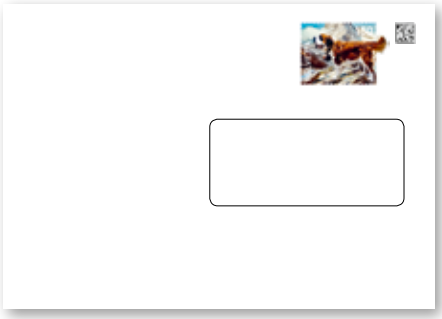
Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Single stamp	A229 150	A229 550	3.60
Block of four	A229 160	A229 560	14.40
Sheet of 10 stamps	A229 361	A229 381	36.00
Covers			
Single stamp on first-day cover C6		A229 580	4.50
Block of four on first-day cover C6		A229 630	15.30
Unstamped cover C6	A229 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A229 640	A229 650	4.40
Folder			
Folder (de) 2018 with 5 stamps		A229 990	19.00
Collectors' portfolio (de, fr, it)	A109 991		9.00
The folder and the collectors' portfolio are not supplied with the subscription.			

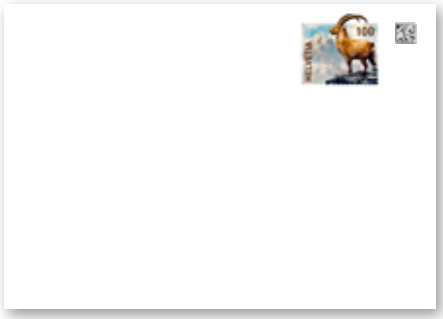
Swiss animals and landscapes on pre-franked envelopes

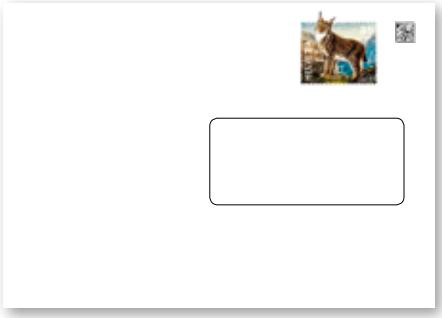
The current motif has been on sale since 2006. After 12 years, it is being replaced and given a Swiss touch. The practical pre-franked envelopes are available in four varieties, as A or B Mail.

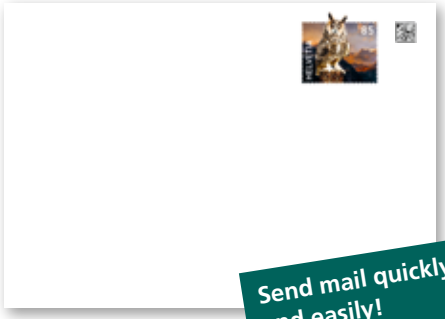
A competition between three Swiss designers was held to produce the stamp motifs. The winning motif was not selected by the stamp commission but by a vote among branch employees, with over 1,600 staff taking part.
The Swiss animals and landscapes on the stamp represent the beauty of Swiss nature. The animals are presented as loveable figures and the landscapes as valuable resources for Switzerland. The paper used for both the pre-franked covers and the stamps is FSC-certified and will help to preserve forests for future generations.
The covers are available in packs of ten at postshop.ch or individually at branches.

They can be used for sending mail within Switzerland. The integrated stamp is much appreciated by private customers, SMEs and associations alike and has proven a simple and practical solution.
The old covers will remain on sale while stocks last and will then be replaced by the new ones at branches as required. The new version will also be available only at a later date at postshop.ch. However, they will be offered to Focus on stamps readers from 15 November 2018.









Send mail quickly and easily!

Product	Art. no.	Price in CHF
Pre-franked envelope A Mail C5 with window (10 items)	A232 862	12.00
Pre-franked envelope A Mail C5 without window (10 items)	A232 863	12.00
Pre-franked envelope B Mail C5 with window (10 items)	A232 864	10.50
Pre-franked envelope B Mail C5 without window (10 items)	A232 865	10.50
The envelopes are only available mint and are not supplied with the subscription.		

Colourful stamps

Issue set with single stamps 4/2018

Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 4/2018

Annual and special products	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Issue set with single stamps 4/2018			
The single stamp, sets and miniature sheets in the 4/2018 issue dated 15.11.2018 are displayed on a free A5 backing card and protected with cellophane wrapping.	A223 150	A223 550	19.20
Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 4/2018			
The first-day covers with the single stamp, sets and miniature sheets in the 4/2018 issue dated 15.11.2018 are combined in one free cover.		A223 580	24.60
2018 year book			
Representing a valuable record of our times, the year book presents all Swiss stamps and first-day cancellations for 2018, along with an exclusive black print, on over 100 pages in four languages (de/fr/it/en).	A225 830	A225 831	69.00
2018 year set			
The Swiss stamps for 2018, clearly laid out on four handy display cards with transparent protective sleeve. The "Papal visit to Switzerland" commemorative stamp dated 21.6.2018 is not included in the year set.	A224 320	A224 820	60.35
2018 year set with first-day covers (FDC)			
The year's first-day covers – including the single stamps, sets or miniature sheets with the respective first-day cancellations. The "Papal visit to Switzerland" commemorative stamp dated 21.6.2018 is not included in the year set.		A224 530	85.75

2019 stamp catalogues	Art. no.	Price in CHF
Zumstein		
Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva 2019, German/French	A221 725	35.00
Swiss stamp catalogue		
Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva 2019, German/French	A221 787	27.00
The stamp catalogues can be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.		

Collector starter set (German)	Art. no.	Price in CHF
Everything you need for stamp collecting packed in a yellow rucksack (41×33cm): collection poster with instructions on how to collect stamps (A3), display cards, drying book, magnifying glass, tweezers, perforation gauge, used stamps for soaking off, stamp catalogue and information about subscribing	1558 901	29.00
The Stamp collector starter set can be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.		

Official special edition products from the Federal Mint Swissmint

2018 Christmas coin set

- ✓ with a beautiful Christmas angel medal
- ✓ contains all 2018 circulation coins
- ✓ exquisite minting craftsmanship
- ✓ in a colour illustrated cardboard slipcase
- ✓ for collecting, giving and making someone happy

CHF 40.00

2018 Baby coin set

- ✓ with a fun bear medal
- ✓ contains all 2018 circulation coins
- ✓ to remember a child's birth year
- ✓ in a colour illustrated cardboard slipcase
- ✓ for collecting, giving and making someone happy
- ✓ also available in larger post offices

CHF 40.00

2018 Birthday coin set

- ✓ with an attractive birthday cake medal
- ✓ contains all 2018 circulation coins
- ✓ a brilliant idea for a birthday present
- ✓ in a colour illustrated cardboard slipcase
- ✓ for collecting, giving and making someone happy

CHF 40.00

Delivery free of charge to addresses in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Prices are subject to change. While stocks last.

Available at www.swissmintshop.ch or telephone +41 58 4 800 800

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